

REMARKS

In view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks, reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested.

Currently, claims 46-70 are pending in the present application, including independent claims 46, 57 and 70.

In the Office Action, claims 46-56, 61, 63 and 64 were indicated as being allowable. The remaining claims were rejected in view of various prior art references including Ota, Ness, Rescigno, Brown, Carr, Meunier, and Porcelli. In response, claim 57 has now been amended to require that at least the first hollow member or the second hollow member of the cleaning device contain an elastic nonwoven that comprises an elastic component and a non-elastic component. Specifically, claim 57 has been amended to incorporate a limitation similar to the one found in allowed claim 61. Applicants submit that claim 57 as now amended patentably defines over the prior art references cited above either singularly or in combination.

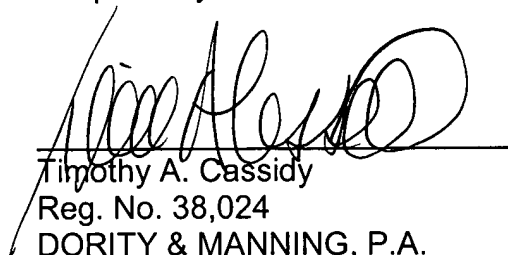
The Examiner's attention is also directed to new claim 70 which is directed to a cleaning device that includes a first hollow member having an open end and a closed end and a second hollow member having an open end and a closed end. Claim 70 further requires that the cleaning device include a connecting portion for connecting the first hollow member to the second hollow member. Specifically, the connecting portion comprises dental floss. In comparison, none of the above prior art discloses or suggests the particular combination of elements as defined in claim 70. As such, it is believed that claim 70 is also in condition for allowance.

In the Office Action, it was indicated that only claims 46-64 were pending. Applicants request, however, the Examiner also consider claims 65-69 and newly added claim 70. Claims 65-69 were presented previously along with claims 56-64.

In summary, Applicants submit that the claims as currently amended are patentably distinct over the prior art of record and are in complete condition for allowance. Should any issues remain after consideration of this amendment, however, then Examiner Cole is invited and encouraged to telephone the undersigned at her convenience.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date



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